

RRT I Meeting Summary
April 26th 2006
EPA New England Regional Laboratory
North Chelmsford, Massachusetts

Upcoming Exercises, Meetings, and Items of Interest

April 29, 2006	NDHES exercise in Colebrook, NH with terrorism and environmental components
May 2, 2006	NJ planning conference for the June 20-22 FEMA hurricane exercise
May 8-12, 2006	Ardent Sentry 2006
May 19 & 22, 2006	Fast Ferry Catamaran Exercise (Yarmouth, Nova Scotia to Bar Harbor and Portland, ME)
May 23, 2006	Piscataqua River Co-op Spring Exercise with Sprague, Irving, MEDEP, NDHES, and USCG Portsmouth Office.
Spring 2006 – TBD	Hazmat exercise in northeast CT
June 1, 2006	Planning conference for the PortSTEP TSA exercise along Canadian border.
June 6-7, 2006	FEMA Mission Assignment training
June 12, 2006	NDHES preparedness conference in Concord, NH
June 20-22, 2006	FEMA New England/NY/NJ hurricane exercise out of Providence, RI
June 29-30, 2006	HHS/State avian flu exercise
Sept. 25-26, 2006	ME/NH Area Committee Seminar in Portland, ME on disaster management following a major hurricane
Sept. 27, 2006	RRT I Fall Meeting – Portland, ME
Sept. 28, 2006	PortSTEP exercise – Portland, ME
Fall 2006	NH Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Tactical Interoperability Exercise
2006 – TBD	US Navy/DOD Hurricane communications exercise
2006 – TBD	US Navy/DOD Northeast Region spill response plan – tabletop exercise
2006 – TBD	Debris management workshop with EPA, States, USACE

NRT/RRT Co-Chairs Meeting Website: <http://ems-mx4.sradev.com/nrtconf/>

Email gregory.banner@hhs.gov for information on accessing the Regional Medical List Server

Information on FDA avian flu preparedness/response activities: www.fda.gov and click on “Flu Information” link

Information on the Northeast Waste Management Officials’ Association: www.newmoa.org

On-line course (CD) on Stafford Act declarations and reimbursement process to be available shortly on www.fema.gov

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Janine Commerford, Asst. Commissioner, MassDEP Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup

- Newly appointed Assistant Commissioner
- Emphasized emergency response capabilities and importance of partnering and building strong relationships with local, federal, and private response partners.

Arthur Johnson, EPA RRT Co-Chair

- Welcomed RRT meeting participants and encourage attendees to visit the equipment demonstrations.
- RRT meeting reduced from a 1.5 day meeting to a 1-day event due to a former DHS hurricane planning exercise which was subsequently cancelled.

CAPT Mark Landry, USCG RRT Co-Chair:

- Welcomed RRT meeting attendees and thanked USCG RRT Coordinator Barry Breslin for his dedication and contributions to the RRT. Barry Breslin will be leaving the RRT Coordinator position in the coming weeks. Highlighted some of the challenges

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OSC Reports

Michael Lingaites, USCG Sector Northern New England

- Piscataqua River Co-op Spring Exercise on May 23, 2006 with Sprague, Irving, MEDEP, NDHES, and USCG Portsmouth Office.
- Fast Ferry Catamaran Exercise (Yarmouth, Nova Scotia to Bar Harbor and Portland, ME) on May 19 and 22, 2006.
- Three entities are proposing LNG facilities on the Canadian/US border. Tribal and cross-border issues.
- Portstep TSA exercise along Canadian border. June 1, 2006 - planning conference. Sept. 28, 2006 – exercise.

CAPT Roy Nash, USCG Sector Southeastern New England

- PREP drill in February 2006 with Motiva – Worst Case Discharge
- Focusing on ICS training
- Places of Refuge planning
- Tanker traffic under bridges being investigated
- “Cape Wind Farm” issues being investigated

LCDR Kevin Keast, USCG Sector Long Island Sound

- 2,000 – 4,000 gallon release of gasoline to New Haven Harbor from a vessel in distress. Aircraft flyovers provided valuable source of information on plume migration.
- January 2006 – 63 ft fishing vessel capsized right off of the dock with 1,000 gallons of diesel, hydraulic oil, etc. In retrospect, should have federalized the response immediately.
- Lessons learned from false positive detection of anthrax contamination.
- “Broad Water” submitted request for an LNG facility 9 miles north of Riverhead, 11 miles south of Connecticut in Long Island Sound. USCG’s Safety Assessment to be completed in June 2006 and the draft Environmental Impact Statement to be released in July 2006.

- Hurricane planning. Marine Transportation System recovery planning.
- Tank fire at Magellan Terminal in New Haven, CT – part of the strategic petroleum reserve. Hot work had been conducted inside the tank, which had been certified as gas-free.

CDR Tom Miller, USCG Sector Boston

- Global Petroleum discharge of 3,000 gallons of No. 2 oil to Chelsea Creek from buried piping
- ExxonMobil discharge of approximately 10,000 gallons of No. 2 white sulfur diesel to the Island End River. The potentially responsible party (PRP) has still not accepted responsibility for the spill. Emphasized value of close coordination with EPA.
- Irving Oil 19,000 gallon diesel spill from Irving/Global dock to Chelsea Creek. Communication issue identified as key causal factor in spill.
- Government Initiated Unannounced Exercises (GIUEs) very successful joint federal program. Working with EPA to develop a list of pass/fail criteria.
- Deepwater Port applications have been submitted, with ROD to be issued in December 2006.

Arthur Johnson, EPA

- Continue to support the response to Hurricane Katrina. 21 out of 23 EPA OSCs have done multiple duty rotations in the New Orleans area.

Dave McIntyre, EPA On-Scene Coordinator

- BioWatch program update. Feb. 9, 2006 exercise with Department of Homeland DHS, State Departments of Public Health, etc. on interagency response to a plague release.
- April 1 meeting with DPH to discuss locations for indoor monitoring locations in addition to the outdoor monitoring currently being conducted in Boston.
- Early May – EPA meeting in Chicago on Biowatch

Cosmo Caterino, EPA On-Scene Coordinator

- Update on the GIUE program. Federal government is required to conduct unannounced exercises at bulk oil storage facilities. EPA is coordinating with the USCG and the States in planning and conducting these GIUEs.

Agency Reports

Michael Mulhare, RIDEM

- Agriculture and wildlife carcass disposal during an avian flu pandemic.
- Looking to designate a carcass composting facility on state property.
- DOI/FWS has issues with current composting plans that need to be addressed
- Developing debris management plan for RI. Challenging because of spatial limitations.
- Lonsdale Bleachery oil removal starting up again.
- Mercury release in Pawtucket revisited. Some residences resampled as a result of pending litigation.
- Harvesting program for hydrogen-sulfide contamination on waterfront properties.
- Scallop vessel on Block Island that still needs to be salvaged.

Barbara Parker, MEDEP

- Joint EPA/MEDEP/11th Civil Support Team exercise in Waterville, Maine in April 2006.

- Several recent train derailments, including one where 4 cars containing diesel fuel derailed. Fortunately, no oil spills resulted.
- Avian flu response planning. MEDEP to train with Maine CDC and Maine Dept. of Agriculture on avian flu response. Lack of adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) identified as a key issue.

Rick Berry, NHDES

- Developing a solid waste cleanup fund
- Mill closing in Berlin presents cleanup challenges
- April 29, 2006 – Colebrook, NH exercise with a terrorism and environmental components
- Fall 2006 Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Tactical Interoperability Exercise
- June 12, 2006 preparedness conference in Concord, NH
- Sept. 25-26, 2006 seminar in Portland, ME on disaster management following a major hurricane
- Several recent meth lab responses and up to 500 more in the pipeline

Janine Commerford, MassDEP

- Recent Chelsea Creek oil spill responses with EPA and USCG
- Blackstone, Massachusetts incident involving teenage vandals urinating into the water supply.
- Recent ICS training
- Recent acquisition of SCBAs and other equipment that is consistent with EPA and other states
- Funds acquired through recent passage of an oil “tax” has enabled MassDEP to help local communities acquire spill response equipment.

Mark DeCaprio, CTDEP

- Dep. Commissioner Stall has retired and been replaced with Dept. Commissioner Amy Morella.
- Update on personnel and bureau title changes.
- Avian flu planning update.
- Hazmat exercise in the northeast corner of CT in Spring 2006.
- Two recent fires in CT.

Fred Malaby, OSHA

- Update on OSHA contributions to the Hurricanes Katrina/Rite response.
- ICS and Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) training incorporated into recent and upcoming exercises.
- Emergency Response positions to be offered shortly in the region
- Avian flu tabletop exercises for first responders and hospitals

Richard (Dick) Conant, US Navy, DOD

- Hurricane Exercise 2006 communications exercise
- Northeast Region spill response plan – tabletop exercise in 2006
- Preparing Navy-owned FRP facilities for possible GIUEs
- Navy Region East to be formed as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure Committee (BRACC).

Andrew Raddant, DOI

- Discussed usage restrictions federally-owned properties
- Update on recent FWS activities and hurricane response exercises
- Overview of current oil spill affecting the Bombay Wildlife Refuge
- LNG Environmental Impact Statements to be issued.
- Extreme funding limitations pose significant challenges to DOI' ability to carry out its mission.

Dan McElhinney, FEMA

- Thanked all of the local, state, and federal agencies that have supported the response in the hurricane-affected areas.

Greg Banner, HHS

- Regional cooperation and mutual aid agreements between the states
- Planning to improve coordination between FEMA/DHS, HHS, and the states during health emergencies
- Regional Medical List Server a valuable source of information. Email gregory.banner@hhs.gov

Steve Lehmann, NOAA

- Hurricane operations support: working with EPA and USCG on vessel and container recovery
- Personnel changes at the Coastal Resources Research Center. Research on recovery of sinking oils.

CAPT Mutahar Shamsi, FDA/US PHS

- Update on recent exercises, including an actual response to a red-tide outbreak

Dr. Frederick Cantor, USDA

- Regional emergency response coordinator for New England
- Works with state public health veterinarians on disposal issues
- USDA developing guidelines and plans for disposal and animal carcass composting

Robert Smallcomb, DOT/Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

- Jurisdiction over pipeline and LNG facilities
- Overview of support provided to the federal agencies during the Katrina response. Expedited waivers were provided to facilitate operations.
- Focus on security and cooperative efforts of PHMSA and USCG

Regional Hurricane Exercise Program**Dan McElhinney, FEMA Region I**

- DHS mandate that the five FEMA regions must conduct hurricane exercises by June 1, 2006.
- May 2, 2006 NJ planning conference for the June exercise
- June 20-22, 2006 New England/NY/NJ FEMA hurricane exercise out of Providence, RI
- Revising FEMA mission assignments. Improve public outreach.

Arthur Johnson, EPA

- Submitted to the RRT EPA I objectives for the hurricane exercise program

Dr. Frederick Cantor, USDA

- Developing plans for pet sheltering

Avian Flu Response

Greg Banner, HHS

- Working with the State health departments on all-hazards and avian flu planning
- June 29-30, 2006 state avian flu exercise
- Can provide contacts within the state and federal avian flu response community

Dr. Frederick Cantor, USDA

- Emphasizes key distinction between “low” and “high-path” AI. Low pathogenic avian influenza very common occurrence in birds. “Low path” AI is distinct from “high pathogenic” AI, which is of great concern to the response community (and birds). Pandemic influenza refers to “high path” AI that has mutated so that it can be transferred from humans-to-humans.
- Overview of work with states on improving communications between all of the state agencies during an avian flu response.
- USDA enacting a “Biosecurity” campaign with outreach to the potentially affected community (farms, live bird markets, etc.). AI is easily spread from farm to farm, and much work is being done on preventing cross-contamination from contaminated vectors (trucks, response personnel, etc.), smugglers, etc.
- Overview of past avian influenza outbreaks and necessary immediate control and response actions for future outbreaks.

CAPT Mutahar S. Shamsi, FDA/USPHS

- Information on FDA avian influenza preparedness work: www.fda.gov Click on “Flu Information” link.
- FDA Rapid Response Teams formed to respond to avian flu
- FDA cracking down on fraudulent, unapproved influenza-related products
- HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt visiting every state to discuss avian flu

Anthony (“Tony”) Honnellio, EPA Health & Safety Officer

- EPA Region I AI workgroup to initiate outreach activities and consider potential consequences of avian influenza and pandemic influenza.
- Overview of EPA activities in promoting awareness, coordinating current response capabilities, and developing enhanced multi-agency response protocols for AI and pandemic influenza.
- Developed generic Health and Safety Plan (HASP) for responders

Arthur Johnson, EPA

- Provided highlights from recent meeting with EPA and solid waste representatives from all of the states
- Northeast Waste Management Officials’ Association: www.newmoa.org

- Need for the health community to make recommendations to the RRT on what level of contamination warrants activation of the RRT and how the response structure would be organized.

CDR Tom Miller, USCG Sector Boston

- For incoming vessels where it is suspected that a passenger has AI, who would the primary agencies be with jurisdiction over decision-making? CDC, State Health Departments, USCG Captain of the Port (COTP).

Debris Management

Arthur Johnson, EPA

- Overlap between EPA/USCG/USACE missions of debris management
- Improvements needed on coordinating debris management
 - white goods (refrigerators, freezers, AC's) – some disconnects on which agency is responsible for collection and management of these materials and how debris collection areas are managed
 - electronic goods (laptops, computers, radios)
 - oversight of landfill locations
 - household hazardous waste/orphan containers – additional work needed on coordinating with USACE on HHW collection. Recommend having a USACE liaison at the EPA/USCG/State ESF#10 Unified Command.
- Propose debris management workshop with EPA, States, USACE, FEMA, etc. for summer 2006.

Michael Mulhare, RIDEM

- RI has a draft debris management plan
- Recommend putting together a master price agreement and contracts at the state level

Marc DeCaprio, CTDEP

- CT developing a debris management plan

Rick Berry, NHDES

- Plan for coastal oil debris needs to be updated.
- No current comprehensive plan for debris management following a natural disaster.
- Very interested in a workshop

John Fischer, MassDEP

- MassDEP's current debris management plan provides a starting framework, but needs extensive additional work.
- A DEP workgroup has been formed to revise the plan for fall 2006 in conjunction with local communities and solid waste management organizations.

Barbara Parker, MEDEP

- Looks very favorably on a focused workshop on debris management capabilities

Dan McElhinney, FEMA

- Recently revised USACE debris removal mission assignments to reflect need for segregation of different types of debris.
- On-line course on Stafford Act declarations and reimbursement process to be available shortly on www.fema.gov

Recap of NRT/RRT Co-Chairs Meeting**Arthur Johnson, EPA**

- Highlighted usefulness of the RRT report-outs and cross-sharing of knowledge among the RRTs
- NRT/RRT Co-Chairs Meeting Website: <http://ems-mx4.sradev.com/nrtconf/>
- RRTs requested additional training from FEMA on mission assignments and from NRT on the Selection Guide tool for alternative oil spill response technologies
- FEMA Mission Assignment Training – June 6-7, 2006
- Focus on ICS training
- Funding shortfalls challenge the RRTs' ability to carry out missions
- Suggested incorporating a ½-day tabletop exercise into the RRT meeting
- Excellent presentation by US Navy Supervisor of Salvage (SupSalv) on vessel recovery capabilities

Ardent Sentry Exercise (May 8-12, 2006)**Arn Heggers, USCG**

- Marine Transportation Security Act (MTSA) goal is to prevent a Transportation Security Incident (TSI).
- Under MTSA, annual exercises (table top, command post, or full scale) are required to exercise the effectiveness of the Area Maritime Security Plan (AMSP).
- Intelligence reports of radiological dispersant devices on shore and on a vessel will result in the Maritime Security (MARSEC) level being raised.
- The Atlantic Strike Team will respond together with the State Civil Support Teams.
- COOP plans will be exercised

Port Security Training Exercise Program (PortSTEP)**Arn Heggers, USCG**

- PortSTEP is a Transportation Security Administration (TSA)-managed program to strengthen ties between the surface and maritime transportation sectors in order to more effectively respond to an actual port TSI.
- TSA and USCG will drive the focus of the PortSTEP exercises towards security issues related to the interaction between the surface and maritime intermodal aspects of the port.

Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)**Dan McElhinney, FEMA**

- Recently VT has taken over responsibility for EMAC coordination

- EMAC is a governor-to-governor agreement between a “receiving” state and a “providing” state.
- Medical and electrical component of mutual aid
- During the recent hurricane responses, over 65,000 personnel responded to the affected area through the EMAC process
- Incident Management Teams (IMTs) are one resource that may be ordered through EMAC.

Co-Chairs Closing Remarks

CAPT Mark Landry, USCG 1st District

- Recommends reading through the 125 lessons learned from the Hurricane Katrina Lessons Learned Report.

Questions/Comments, contact:

LTJG Barry Breslin, USCG 617-223-8587 or barry.f.breslin@uscg.mil
Melanie Morash, EPA 617-918-1298 or morash.melanie@epa.gov